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Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 DHA-02 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /073 W
----------271051Z 077615 /10
P R 270945Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8167
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 7900

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, JA, US
SUBJECT: DPRK P"PARLIAMENTARY" GROUP VISIT TO JAPAN

REF: TOKYO 6975

1. JAPAN-DPRK PARLIAMENTARY LEAGUE CHAIRMAN (AND LDP LOWER HOUSE MEMBER) CHUJI KUNO DISCUSSED AT LENGTH WITH EMBOFF MAY 27 RECENT DPRK "PARLIAMENTARY" GROUP VISIT TO JAPAN. HIGHLIGHTS OF CONVERSATION FOLLOW.

2. IN SEMI-EXCLUSIVE TOKYO PRESS INTERVIEW, DPRK DELEGATION CHAIRMAN HYON CHUN-KUK WAS AKSED WHETHER IT WAS DEFINITE KIM IL-SONG'S ELDER SON, KIM CHONG-IL, WOULD SUCCEED HIM. HYON REPLIED CHONG-IL HAD TAKEN UP EXTREMELY IMPORTANT POSTS AS MEMBER OF POLITICAL
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COMMITTEE OF KOREAN WORKERS' PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND AS SECRETARY OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE. WHEN JAPANESE REPORTERS BECAME EXCITED BY NEWS AND ASKED WHAT CHINESE CHARACTERS SHOULD BE USED TO REPORT IT, HYON BECAME NERVOUS AND ENTIRE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS MADE NON-EVENT.

3. OTHERWISE, KUNO SAID, HYON AS DIPLOMAT DID NOT STRAY

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FROM PARTY LINE DURING HIS EXTENSIVE POLITICAL CONVERSA-
TIONS. KUNO SAID HE HAD HAD TWO LENGTHY PRIVATE SESSIONS
WITH HYON, BUT DID ALL TALKING HIMSELF. HYON SIMPLY
TOOK NOTES. AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT, HOWEVER, HYON TOLD
KUNO VISIT HAD BEEN ESPECIALLY VALUABLE AND MEANINGFUL,
WHICH KUNO TOOK TO BE MORE THAN DIPLOMATIC POLITMENESS.

4. KUNO WAS ESPECIALLY PLEASED WITH OUTCOME OF VISIT.
HE WAS GRATEFUL THAT HYON, "AN OUTSTANDING DIPLOMAT," HAD
LED DELEGATION, THAT THIS FIRST DPRK "PARLIAMENTARY" GROUP
WAS ADMITTED BY GOJ (A DECISION KUNO "IMAGINED" MADE BY
PRIMIN FUKUDA HIMSELF), AND THAT NORTH KOREANS ENGANGED IN
NO BLATANTLY POLITICAL STATEMENTS OR ACTIVITIES. KUNO
SAID JAPANESE POPULAR INTEREST IN DPRK AND KOREAN ISSUE
HAD BEEN HEIGHTENED FAR BEYOND HIS EXPECTATIONS AND THAT
FIRM FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE DPRK DELEGATION VISITS TO
JAPAN HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED.

5. KUNO SAID FAILURE TO CONCLUDE WIDELY EXPECTED TRADE
AGREEMENT STEMMED FROM HIS SUGGESTION DURING JANUARYLL
1977 PYONGYANG VISIT THAT STAGE BE SET FOR AGREEMENT IN
TOKYO BUT THAT AGREEMENT NOT BE SIGNED, SO AS TO PROVIDE
EXCUSE FOR JAPANSES DELEGATION TO PAY RETURN VISIT TO
PYONGYANG. KUNO SAID HE CHANGED HIS MIND, HOWEVER,
AFTER SEVERAL PRESS REPORTS APPEARED DURING CURRENT
VISIT ALLEGING THAT KOREANS SIMPLY ON PLEASURE TRIP TO JAPAN
AND THAT NO CONCRETE RESULTS WOULD EMERGE. KUNO SAID
HE THEREFORE ASKED HYON TO SIGN STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES
FOR A TRADE AGREEMENT, BUT HYON DEMURRED, SAYING BECAUSE
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OF KUNO'S JANUARY SUGGESTION HE HAD BROUGHT NO TRADE
SPECIALISTS WITH HIM. HYON PRESSED INSTEAD FOR
JOINT COMMUNIQUE, WHICH KUNO REJECTED AS ALMOST CERTAIN
TO BE TOO "POLITICAL" FOR TERMS OF NORTH KOREANS'
ENTRY. AFTER LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS (AND FREQUENT JAPANESE CONTACT
WITH RELATED GOJ MINISTRIES), REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH SIDES AGREED
ON "GIST OF JOINT PRESS STATEMENTMZ INCLUDED IN DRAFT WAS
POLITICAL PARAGRAPH, HOWEVER, WHICH KUNO INSISTED BE CUT, AND
HYON AGREED.

6. KUNO SAID HE WOULD SOON LEAD SOME TWENTY MEMBER
SUPRA-PARTISAN DIET MEMBERS' DELEGATION TO PYONGYANG
INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL JAPANESE PARTIES
INCLUDING JCP. KUNO SAID HE HOPED TO GO BEFORE ANTI-
CIPATED JULY 10 UPPER HOUSE ELECTION BUT, IF THAT
WERE IMPOSSIBLE, HE WOULD GO SHORTLY AFTER. IN ADDITION
TO DIET MEMBERS, GROUP WOULD HAVE SOME TEN MEDIA
REPRESENTATIVES, INCLUDING TV JOURNALISTS.

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7. COMMENT. NOT SURPRISINGLY, AS NORTH KOREANS' HOST, KUNO PRESENTS VISIT AND ITS RESULTS IN QUITE FAVORABLE LIGHT, PARTICULARLY DOWNPLAYING FAILURE TO PRODUCE PRIVATE TRADE AGREEMENT. FONOFF ACCOUNTS OF VISIT, GAINED FROM OTHER MEMBERS OF KUNO'S GROUP, SUGGEST THAT MEETINGS WITH NORTH KOREANS WERE MORE DIFFICULT THAN KUNO LETS ON. FONOFF NORTHEAST ASIA DIVISION OFFICER STATED TO EMBOFF THAT HYON'S REFUSAL TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC AND TRADE MATTERS IN DETAIL AND HIS ORIGINAL INSISTENCE ON INCLUSION OF POLITICAL LANGUAGE IN JOINT STATEMENT HAD BEEN MUCH LESS "DIPLOMATIC" THAN KUNO'S DESCRIPTION.
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Concepts: MEETING DELEGATIONS, VISITS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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